

Swiss Big Five Mountain Railway Discovery

Trip style: Rail Adventures

Destination: 📍 Switzerland

Trip code: STM09-LEL12

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 223kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Experience five of Switzerland's most scenic rail and cable car journeys in one holiday. Travel from London St Pancras to the central Swiss canton of Nidwalden by train and stay on the stunning shores of Lake Lucerne. Climb to the summits of Pilatus, Stanserhorn, Rigi, and Titlis with ease, allowing you to focus your energy on admiring this alpine landscape where snow-capped peaks and crystal lakes steal the show.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Staying in Hergiswil on the shores of Lake Lucerne
- Experiencing the Hammetschwand Lift, the highest outdoor lift in Europe
- Journeying on the Stanserhorn CabriO Cableway
- Riding the Rigi Railway, Europe's first mountain railway
- Travelling on the Pilatus Railway, the steepest cog railway in the world
- Soaking up the views on the Titlis Rotair Revolving Cable Car

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return rail travel from London to Hergiswil
- Fully escorted travel with an HF Holidays Tour Manager
- Excursions guided by a local leader
- 7 nights in Hergiswil and overnight stays in Strasbourg & Basel
- 9 breakfasts & 9 dinners
- All rail and cable car journeys
- Local transport pass

ITINERARY

Day 1: LONDON TO STRASBOURG BY TRAIN

Meet your HF Holidays Tour Manager and fellow travellers at London St Pancras International railway station. After check-in, baggage checks, and passport control, we'll wait for our train. We'll board the Eurostar to Paris, where we'll disembark and leave Gare du Nord to walk the short distance to the Gare de l'Est (about 800 metres). At Gare de l'Est we'll join the high-speed TGV service and travel eastwards from Paris to Alsace and the charming city of Strasbourg. In Strasbourg, we'll walk a short distance (about 350 metres) to our hotel. We'll have time to stretch our legs and stroll around the old town, much of which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This evening we'll enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 2: STRASBOURG TO HERGISWIL

In the late morning we'll make our way back to Strasbourg railway station where we'll board a regional train through Alsace and across the border into Switzerland. In Basel we'll change trains and continue into central Switzerland. There's a final change of trains in Lucerne, arriving in Hergiswil in the late afternoon - our base for the next seven nights. We'll walk the short distance (about 450 metres) to our hotel.

Day 3: HAMMETSCHWAND LIFT

We'll travel by train from Hergiswil to Lucerne where we'll board a boat to take us across the lake to Kehrsiten-Bürgenstock. A funicular then takes us up to Bürgenstock where we'll walk (about 40 minutes to an hour) to the Hammetschwand Lift, the highest outdoor lift in Europe. Journey upwards (153 metres in one minute), and from the summit you'll be able to gaze out over Lake Lucerne, the Rigi and Pilatus mountains, and the Bernese Alps. There's time for lunch before our return journey. Distance: 1 mile (1.7km)

Day 4: STANSERHORN

We'll travel by rail around the lake to Stans, where the first part of our Stanserhorn experience is the funicular railway dating from 1893. We'll then hop on the world's first cableway with an open-air upper deck from where you can take in the outstanding views. At the summit, there's the Rondorama revolving restaurant, which makes one complete revolution every 43 minutes, soaking up 360-degree panoramic views of the Alps. Enjoy lunch before our return journey to Hergiswil.

Day 5: FREE DAY

Make the most of the hotel's leisure facilities and lake surroundings or visit Lucerne with its famous wooden footbridge and Swiss Museum of Transport. You'll be given a local transport pass you can use to visit the sights in the local area.

Day 6: RIGI

Affectionately called the Queen of the Mountains, Rigi is Europe's first mountain railway, which opened in 1871. After a train ride to Lucerne, we'll take a boat and travel across Lake Lucerne to Vitznau. Here we'll join the cogwheel

railway that leaves the lake behind for a magnificent journey through the meadows to the summit of the Rigi. On a clear day you can see France and Germany. Enjoy the views and have some lunch before the return journey to Hergiswil.

Day 7: PILATUS RAILWAY

We'll travel from Hergiswil to Alpnachstad by boat for the start of our Pilatus Railway experience. In Alpnachstad we'll board the steepest cogwheel railway in the world to reach the summit at 2,132 metres above sea level. Enjoy some free time to soak up the panorama of the Alpine Massif. Then we'll travel by aerial cable car and panorama gondola to Kriens and return to Hergiswil from there, via Lucerne.

Day 8: TITLIS ROTAIR, ENGELBERG

We'll travel by train away from the lake and into the mountains to Engelberg via Stans. In Engelberg we'll hop on a cable car to Stand station where the world's first revolving gondola to the summit awaits. The TITLIS Rotair sweeps you up to the summit at 3,020 metres above sea level. The TITLIS Cliff Walk at the summit is sure to get your adrenaline pumping, too.

Day 9: BASEL

We say farewell to Hergiswil and Lake Lucerne and travel to Basel by train, changing in Lucerne en route. On arrival in Basel we'll walk to our hotel, Hotel Schweizerhof, just across the road from the station. We arrive in Basel in the early afternoon so we'll have time to wander and see the sights. The hotel provides each guest with a local BaselCard giving you complimentary travel on local public transport and discounts on numerous attractions. This evening we enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 10: BASEL TO LONDON

After breakfast we'll board the high-speed TGV train for Paris. At Gare de Lyon, a coach will transfer us across Paris to Gare du Nord station. Sit back and relax on the Eurostar from Paris to St Pancras International railway station.

Seehotel Pilatus, Hergiswil

This 4-star family-run hotel features a standout location on the shores of Lake Lucerne in Hergiswil, a short train journey from Lucerne. Surrounded by mountain vistas, there's plenty to please here, including a host of wellness facilities like an indoor pool, whirlpool, Finnish sauna, sundeck, and direct access to the lake.

Hotel Schweizerhof, Basel

Located just opposite the train station, Hotel Schweizerhof is a short walk into the centre of Basel. It dates back to 1864 with four generations of the same family running it since 1896. Rooms are modern with en-suite bathrooms, air conditioning, TV, tea and coffee maker, and free Wi-Fi.

Best Western Plus Monopole Metropole, Strasbourg

This 4-star hotel's location near the train station makes it an ideal base for exploring the city. Rooms are contemporary with en-suite bathrooms, plus it's an eco-responsible hotel, certified by Green Key International. There are two lounges to relax in, one with a pool table, plus there's free Wi-Fi throughout. (28th August 2026 departure only)

Le Grand Hotel Strasbourg (15th May and 6th June 2026 departure)

Conveniently located opposite Strasbourg's main train station, the Le Grand Hotel is ideal for discovering all the charms of the city in a short space of time. Just a 10-minute walk from the city centre, guests can easily explore the nearby historic Petite France district, the stunning Strasbourg Cathedral, or a wealth of shops, bars, and restaurants. Contemporary, comfortable rooms come with all mod cons and free Wi-Fi, whilst the stylish dining area serves a generous buffet breakfast to set you up for the day ahead.

Vaccinations & health information - SHARED WITH ALL EU NEW 2026

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see whether any health precautions are needed for your trip. Health advice and requirements can change, so we recommend doing this in good time before travel. As a general rule, travellers should ensure they are up to date with routine UK vaccinations and boosters, including, for example, MMR and diphtheria, tetanus and polio. Some countries may require you to have specific vaccinations such as Malaria, Rabies and Yellow Fever. Please check with your GP if you are unsure. Please note that the use or possession of some common prescription or over-the-counter medicines is restricted or banned in certain countries. If you will be carrying medication, you should check with the relevant embassy or consulate before travelling. As an extra precaution, we recommend keeping medication in its original packaging, carrying a copy of your prescription, and, where possible, asking your pharmacist to provide the medication name in the language of the country you are visiting. For further country-specific health advice, visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk or www.traveldoctor.co.uk. If you are travelling from outside the UK, please consult your own doctor and check local entry requirements.

Passport & Visa information - SHARED FOR ALL EU NEW 2026

This information is for those travelling with a full 'British Citizen' passport; for all other nationalities or passport holders, please check with your local consulate for advice. **Passport Requirements** This information applies to travellers holding a full British Citizen passport. Entry requirements vary by destination and can change at short notice. For most EU and worldwide destinations, passports must be valid for the entire duration of your stay. Some countries also require a minimum period of validity remaining on your passport (often up to 6 months beyond your return date), even if you are not staying that long. We strongly recommend ensuring your passport has at least six months' validity remaining at the time of travel to avoid any issues. If you hold a different type of British passport or a passport issued by another country, you must check the requirements with the relevant embassy, consulate, or official government website. **Visa Requirements** Visa rules depend on your nationality, destination, length of stay, and purpose of travel, and they can change frequently. It is your responsibility to check whether you require a visa before travelling. British passport holders should check the latest entry, passport validity and visa requirements for their destination on the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Packing list - Overseas Guided Walking

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing. Essentials Walking boots Waterproof jacket Waterproof trousers Insulated jacket/top Walking clothing Walking socks (plus spares) Sunhat Gloves/mitts and warm hat Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity) Headtorch High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30) Sunglasses with a dark lens Rucksack (15-30 litres) Mobile phone Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.) Passport Visa (if applicable) Copy of your travel insurance policy UK Global Health Insurance Card (formerly known as EHIC) Recommended Collapsible walking poles Swimwear and travel towel Snacks Dry bags Rubbish bags Insect repellent Optional extras Camera Sit mat Flask for hot drinks Durable lunch box Gaiters GPS device (excluding Bhutan, Georgia and India)
